

August 26, 2009

Dear Parents:

On the back of this letter you will find a letter from C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, reminding you of things you can do to prevent the flu.

You are hearing a lot about the H1N1 flu right now, and I'm sure that you have questions. As I write this, we know that our district has already had a few students with flu in our schools. No school, however, has had more than a few cases at this point.

Right now health officials are treating all flu as if it is H1N1. We are working closely with DHEC to monitor flu conditions and to make decisions about the best ways to protect our students and staff. Although we know that we will probably continue to see students and staff with flu, you should know that our district is fortunate to have a registered nurse in each of our schools. These trained professionals see sick students and deal with communicable diseases — from lice and chicken pox to meningitis and whooping cough — every day. These nurses are experienced and knowledgeable.

Our nurses and our teachers regularly emphasize health, hygiene and safety. At the elementary schools, in particular, they talk about the importance of frequent hand washing, good hand washing technique and good cough technique in order to reduce the spread of diseases.

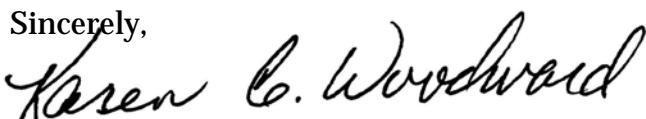
Since school started this year, our nurses have been monitoring students and watching for flu-like illnesses. Should your child become sick with flu-like symptoms (temperature of 100 degrees or more, headache, muscle aches, sweating, sore throat, cough, extreme fatigue), please keep him/her at home.

A sick child does not perform well in class and can expose his classmates to his virus or other illness. If your child complains that he doesn't feel well, please check his temperature before sending him to school. If he has a fever of 100 degrees or more before you give him Tylenol, Advil, Motrin or some other appropriate fever reducing medication, keep your child at home. (Never give aspirin to children or teenagers who have flu-like symptoms and particularly fever without first speaking to your doctor. Giving aspirin to children and teenagers who have the flu can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome.) Then, your child should not return to school until he has been fever free without the help of Tylenol or another product for 24 hours.

Finally, we know how important your children are to you. Make sure that your child's school has your current emergency telephone numbers so that our nurses don't have trouble reaching you. We realize that you want to know when your child is sick so that you can pick him up and that you don't want your sick child spending hours in the health room because we can't reach you.

Should a significant outbreak occur in Lexington County School District One and cause us to close school, cancel events or take other precautionary measures, we will let you know as soon as possible. Thank you for working with us on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dr. Karen Woodward
Superintendent